

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: PETROVIC; Zmaj

SERIAL NO.: 10/517,752

ART UNIT: 3651

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EXAMINER: Deuble, M.A.

TITLE: CONVEYOR BELT

AMENDMENT "A"

Amendment A: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 - 7 (canceled). Please cancel Claims 1 - 7 and substitute Claim 8 - 13 therefor as follows:

8. (new) A planar conveyor belt for moving along a curved trajectory, the conveyor belt comprising:

a plurality of chain links having a central core with a front and a rear, said plurality of chain links having a plurality of projections in a staggered arrangement at said front and said rear, said projections at said front having aligned openings, said plurality of projections of said rear having aligned openings, each of said openings at said front and said rear having an oblong shape;

a first pivot pin passing through said aligned openings of said projections at said front; and

a second pivot pin passing through said aligned openings of said plurality of projections at said rear, each of said openings having a center positioned on an axis extending in generally parallel relation to the curved trajectory, said axis having a radius in excess of one meter.

9. (new) A planar conveyor belt for moving along a curved trajectory comprising:

a first plurality of chain links having a central core with a front and a rear, said first plurality of chain links having a first plurality of projections in spaced relation to each other at said front and a second plurality of projections in spaced relation to each other at said rear, said first and second plurality of projections being in staggered relation to each other, said first plurality of projections having aligned openings, said second plurality of projections having aligned openings, each of said aligned openings being of an oblong shape;

a second plurality of chain links having a central core with a front and a rear, said second plurality of chain links having a first plurality of projections in spaced relation to each other at said front and a second plurality of projections in spaced relation to each other at said rear, said first and second plurality of projections of said second plurality of chain links being in staggered relation to each other, said first plurality of projections of said second plurality of chain links having aligned openings, said second plurality of projections of said second plurality of chain links having aligned openings, each of said aligned openings of said second plurality of chain links being of an oblong shape, said second plurality of projections at said rear of said second plurality of chain links being sandwiched between at least some of said first plurality of projections of said first plurality of chain links;

a plurality of intermediate chain links having a central core with a front and a rear, said plurality of intermediate chain links having a first plurality of projections in spaced relation to each other at said front and a second plurality of projections in spaced relation to each other at said rear, said first and second plurality of projections of said plurality of intermediate chain links being in staggered relation to each other, said first plurality of projections of said plurality of

intermediate chain links having aligned openings, said second plurality of projections having aligned openings, each of said aligned openings of said plurality of intermediate chain links being of an oblong shape, said second plurality of projections at said rear of said plurality of intermediate chain links sandwiched between at least some of said first plurality of projections of said first plurality of chain links, said first plurality of projections of said plurality of intermediate links sandwiched between at least some of said second plurality of projections at said rear of said second plurality of chain links;

a first pin extending through said openings in said first plurality of projections of said second plurality of chain links; and

a second pin extending through said openings in said second plurality of projections of said second plurality of chain links and through said openings of said first plurality of projections of said first chain link and through said second plurality of projections of said plurality of intermediate chain links, each of said openings having a center positioned on an axis extending in generally parallel relationship to the curved trajectory, said axis having a radius in excess of one meter.

10. (new) A planar conveyor belt for moving along a curved trajectory comprising:

a plurality of chain links having a central core with a front and a rear, said plurality of chain links having a plurality of projections extending outwardly of said central core in spaced relation at said front and a plurality of projections extending outwardly of said central core in spaced relation at said rear, said first plurality of projections at said front and said plurality of projections at said rear being in staggered relationship to each other, said projections at said front having aligned openings, said projections at said rear having aligned openings, each of said openings

at said front and said rear having a circular shape, said core comprising two juxtaposed bars in which a front bar of said two juxtaposed bars carries a plurality of rear slots and a rear bar of said two juxtaposed bars carries a plurality of front slots, said plurality of projections extending through said front slots and said rear slots;

a first pin passing through said aligned openings of said plurality of projections at said front; and

a second pivot pin passing through said aligned openings of said plurality of projections at said rear, each of said openings having a center positioned on an axis extending in generally parallel relationship to the curved trajectory, said axis having a radius in excess of one meter.

11. (new) The conveyor belt of Claim 10, each of said front slots and said rear slots defining a space suitable for allowing the respective projections to move therein from one side to another side of the slot.

12. (new) The conveyor belt of Claim 10, said radius being of approximate three meters.

13. (new) The conveyor belt of Claim 10, each of said chain links being formed of a polymeric material.